

These Days Security and Politics

By George E. Sokolaky

IT IS impossible to mix security and politics. J. Edgar Hoover succeeded in his management of the FBI be-

cause he stayed out of politics. Allen Dulles, while he has not been able to build the CIA as efficiently as Hoover did the FBI, came through a very tough

situation without his personal integrity being attacked. The Secret Service in the Treasury is a very responsible agency of security which has never been involved in scandal of any kind. It is strictly non-political. The little Narcotics Bureau does an amazing job with few men and little money but it has nothing to do with politics.

The Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs of the State Department has been in hot water since its organization. One of its earliest chiefs was Scott McLeod, an able man who was a supporter of Sen. Joe McCarthy and was active in the pro-American underground in the government. The pro-American underground has been forgotten; it was a group of officials in various departments of the government who risked their positions by fighting the pro-Communists. It was their efforts which produced the material for the McCarthy and McCarran committees.

THE PRO-AMERICAN underground was not an organized body, but there were meetings in various places from time to time at which data of the greatest importance had to be provided a



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committee. It was often sent to trusted anti-Communists in New York and through them passed back to the counsels and investigators in Washington.

Many of the pro-Communists have found their way back to Washington. Some are today bonafide anti-Communists; others have devoted themselves to scholarly pursuits and are antagonistic to Communists. Surprisingly, some are found in right-wing anti-Communist movements where they are doing very well. Some have provided the FBI and similar defensive organizations with valuable data; some work with investigative congressional committees; some have just disappeared into private life where they do good work. The most effective anti-Communists come from this group.

Except for the top officials of the Communist Party, most current Communists and pro-Communists have no personal history in the Party that goes back to the days of McCarthy. The present personalities are new and younger. The number of spies, rather than party members, has increased. There has been a very strong infiltration of right-wing movements with the object of breaking them into segments by internal quarrels as well as by giving them a ridiculously extremist facade.

The rightist extremists will ultimately have the effect of breaking up conservative movements by stimulating internal quarrels.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT security bureau is a very important agency of Government, requiring expert management for the pro-

tection of the property and secrecy of American diplomatic establishments in the United States and abroad.

Since its organization, this bureau has not been headed by a professional, except Scott McLeod, who was a former FBI operative.

He was succeeded by John W. Hanes Jr., a southern businessman engaged in textiles but without any background in security practices. Hanes was appointed in the Eisenhower Administration. Salvatore A. Bontempo, a New Jersey Democratic politician, was appointed to head the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs in the Kennedy Administration. He has already resigned. The attack upon him was made by Rep. Francis E. Walter, Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, also a Democrat, who regarded Bontempo as inefficient and solely political. Bontempo has had no prior experience in handling spies and security checks.

Since Bontempo's resignation, the bureau is being reorganized in the office of Ralph S. Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management who serves under William J. Crockett, Assistant Secretary for Administration. It is rumored in Washington that a committee of foreign service officers work under them. Substitute the word, "team," for the word, "committee," and you have it approximately right.

This is not the end of this story which is in the developing stage. The best solution is the reorganization of security forces by experienced men.